

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below. Claims 1-8 and 18-23 are cancelled. Claims 9, 11, 16, 24 and 31 are amended.

1-8. (cancelled)

1 9. (currently amended) A check-out method for a product having a security tag
2 ~~security tags~~ associated therewith, comprising the steps of:

3 storing one or more physical characteristics for said ~~products~~ product;

4 recalling said one or more physical characteristics when a consumer checks
5 out said product;

6 placing said ~~products~~ product in a substantially enclosed area;

7 examining said ~~products~~ product while said ~~products are~~ product is in said
8 substantially enclosed area;

9 establishing one or more physical features for said ~~products~~ product while said
10 ~~products are~~ product is in said substantially enclosed area;

11 comparing said one or more physical characteristics to said one or more
12 physical features;

13 generating a signal ~~after~~ if said one or more physical characteristics
14 substantially match said one or more physical features; and

15 deactivating said ~~tags~~ tag with a deactivation device after receipt of said signal
16 and while said ~~products are~~ product is in said substantially enclosed area.

1 10. (original) The method according to claim 9 wherein said one or more
2 physical characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to weight.

1 11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 9 wherein said one or
2 more physical characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to size.

1 12. (original) The method according to claim 9 wherein said one or more
2 physical characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to shape.

1 13. (original) The method according to claim 9 wherein said one or more
2 physical characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to color.

1 14. (original) The method according to claim 9 wherein said one or more
2 physical characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to two or more
3 of the following: weight, size, shape, color or surface texture.

1 15. (original) The method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of
2 ensuring no other object is in said substantially enclosed area once said product has
3 been placed in said substantially enclosed area but before said tag has been
4 deactivated.

1 16. (currently amended) The method according to claim 15 further comprising
2 the step of generating an alert signal if ~~another~~ an object, in addition to said product,
3 is detected to be in said substantially enclosed area once said product has been placed
4 in said substantially enclosed area but before said tag has been deactivated.

1 17. (original) The method according to claim 16 further comprising the step of
2 preventing any deactivation of said tag once said alert signal has been generated.

18-23. (cancelled)

1 24. (currently amended) A check-out system for a product having a security tag
2 ~~and identification~~ associated therewith, comprising:

3 a substantially enclosed area;

4 a database for storing one or more physical characteristics for said product;

5 a scanner for retrieving from said database said one or more physical
6 characteristics;

7 a physical characteristic evaluator for establishing one or more physical
8 features for said product while said product is in said substantially enclosed area;

9 a computer for comparing said one or more physical characteristics to said one
10 or more physical features;

11 an electronic circuit for generating a signal ~~after~~if said one or more physical
12 characteristics substantially match said one or more physical features; and

13 a deactivation device for deactivating said tag ~~with a deactivation device~~ after
14 receipt of said signal and while said product is in said substantially enclosed area.

1 25. (original) The system according to claim 24 wherein said one or more
2 physical characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to weight.

1 26. (original) The system according to claim 24 wherein said one or more
2 physical characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to size.

1 27. (original) The system according to claim 24 wherein said one or more
2 physical characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to shape.

1 28. (original) The system according to claim 24 wherein said one or more
2 physical characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to color.

1 29. (original) The system according to claim 24 wherein said one or more
2 physical characteristics and said one or more physical features pertain to two or more
3 of the following: weight, size, shape, color or surface texture.

1 30. (original) The system according to claim 24 further comprising a means for
2 ensuring no other object is in said substantially enclosed area once said product has
3 been placed in said substantially enclosed area but before said tag has been
4 deactivated.

1 31. (currently amended) The system according to claim 30 further comprising
2 means for generating an alert signal if ~~another~~ an object, in addition to said product, is
3 detected to be in said substantially enclosed area once said product has been placed in
4 said substantially enclosed area but before said tag has been deactivated.

1 32. (original) The system according to claim 31 further comprising means for
2 preventing any deactivation of said tag once said alert signal has been generated.